

APPENDIX A

Version of claims with markings to show changes made.

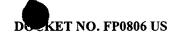
- 1. A method of treating or preventing fibrosis, the method comprising administering to a subject in need an effective amount of an agent that modulates, regulates, or inhibits the expression or activity of CTGF or fragments thereof.
- 2. A method of treating or preventing a renal disorder associated with overproduction of extracellular matrix, the method comprising administering to a subject in need an effective amount of an agent that modulates, regulates, or inhibits the expression or activity of CTGF or fragments thereof.
- 3. The method of claim 2, wherein the agent is an antibody which specifically binds to CTGF or fragments thereof.
- 4. The method of claim 2, wherein the agent is an antisense oligonucleotide having a sequence which binds with a sequence encoding CTGF or fragments thereof.
- 5. The method of claim 2, wherein the agent is a small molecule.
- 6. The method of claim 2, wherein the agent is a compound that blocks binding interactions involved in the signal transduction pathway of CTGF, thereby modulating or inhibiting CTGF activity.
- 7. The method of claim 2, wherein the agent is a molecule that interferes with or blocks post-translational modification of CTGF.
- 8. The method of claim 2, wherein the agent is a molecule that blocks the activation of a precursor of CTGF.

9. The method of claim 2, wherein the renal disorder is diabetes.

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- 10. The method of claim 2, wherein the renal disorder is hypertension.
- 11. The method of claim 2, wherein the extracellular matrix is comprised of collagen.
- 12. A method of treating or preventing diabetes, the method comprising administering to a subject in need a therapeutically effective amount of insulin and a therapeutically effective amount of an agent that modulates, regulates, or inhibits expression and activity of CTGF or fragments thereof.
- 13. A pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective amount of an agent that modulates, regulates, or inhibits the expression or activity of CTGF.
- 14. (Twice Amended) A method for diagnosing a renal disorder characterized by overproduction of extracellular matrix, or identifying a predisposition or susceptibility to a renal disorder characterized by overproduction of extracellular matrix, in a subject, the method comprising:
 - (a) obtaining a sample from the subject
 - (b) detecting the level of CTGF in the sample; and
 - (c) comparing the level of CTGF in the sample to a standard level of CTGF,

 wherein increased levels of CTGF are indicative of the presence of a renal disorder.
- 15. The method of claim 14, wherein the renal disorder is diabetes.
- 16. The method of claim 14, wherein the sample from the subject is a urine sample.
- 17. (Once Amended) A diagnostic kit for use in diagnosing a renal disorder characterized by overproduction of extracellular matrix, or identifying a



predisposition or susceptibility to a renal disorder characterized by overproduction of extracellular matrix, the method comprising:

- (a) a means for detecting the level of CTGF in a sample; and
- (b) a means for measuring the level of CTGF in the sample.
- 18. The diagnostic kit of claim 17, wherein the sample is a urine sample.